

BUENA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Honoring Tradition. Inspiring Futures.

DAVID C. CAPPUCCIO, JR.

Superintendent

Courtney McNeely

Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Pasquale Yacovelli, SFO

Business Admin./Board Secretary

Friday, December 21, 2018

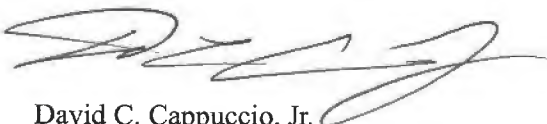
Dear School Community Members and Concerned Citizens:

In light of recent events involving a Buena Regional High School student-athlete during an interscholastic wrestling match, I am writing to provide clarification of the facts known to the school and district administration at the present time, as well as steps taken by the district.

- On the evening of Wednesday, December 19, 2018 the Buena Regional High School hosted Oakcrest Regional High School in an interscholastic wrestling match.
- Wrestling officials/referees are part of an independent association, and are sanctioned by the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA). All officials/referees are scheduled for matches through an assignor who is not employed by the Buena Regional School District. In this instance, the assigned referee for this match was not an employee of the Buena Regional School District.
- As a Buena Regional High School wrestler stepped onto the mat, the assigned referee indicated that the wrestler's hair length and headgear were not in compliance with regulations. At that time, the compliance rules being enforced by the referee dictated that if the wrestler's hair was not in compliance with the regulations, then the match would be forfeited.
- The student-athlete made the decision to have his hair cut, at that moment, in order to avoid a forfeiture of the match. No school/district staff member influenced the student into making this decision.
- The following day the high school principal, athletic director, and wrestling coach contacted the student's parent to discuss the events from the prior night.
- The high school principal and athletic director contacted the Assistant Director at the NJSIAA to discuss the situation and the referee's interpretation of the rules. They were informed that the NJSIAA will be investigating the matter and is seeking guidance from the Rules Interpreter for wrestling.
- The Superintendent of the Buena Regional School District spoke with the NJSIAA Assistant Director and stipulated that, although the investigation in the matter is ongoing, the assigned referee will no longer be permitted to officiate any contests that include any Buena Regional School District student-athletes.

The staff and administration within the Buena Regional School District will continue to support and stand by all of our students and student-athletes. In collaboration with the NJSIAA and its ongoing investigation in this matter, the district will take appropriate action as more details become available.

Yours in education,



David C. Cappuccio, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools